

APPLICATION

OF

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Operations and Support Discrete Event Simulation System and Method

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OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT DISCRETE EVENT SIMULATION SYSTEM AND METHOD

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

 This invention relates to a discrete event simulation and method of model development for operations and support of weapons systems and more specifically to the creation and use of common attributes and a library of common blocks and sub-models to
10 model a service use profile (SUP).

Description of the Related Art

 There is ongoing need to affordably sustain levels of readiness for existing weapon systems, and to design new weapon systems that can be affordably sustained
15 over a specified life-cycle. It follows that there are analytical needs for existing and future fielded weapon systems, which account for operations and support policies, weapon reliability, maintenance concept (maintenance location, weapon spares, spare weapon components, test equipment, and support equipment) and support infrastructure. These factors have combined consequences on the effectiveness of the weapon system by
20 directly impacting the operational and stockpile availability of the population and the reliability of weapons at the time they are required for actual use.

 A thorough analysis should account for: exposure of sub-populations to different environments and the resultant effect on their reliability in differing environments; possible improvements and/or degradation in inherent reliability over time; effectiveness
25 and reliability of the test equipment; tracking multiple variants of weapons with differing reliability characteristics or maintenance procedures through the support system; the possibility of weapon inventories being taxed through multiple global engagements, and determining effects of retrofit or recall programs; the possibility of future retrofit requiring recall of all or a portion of the inventory; and the increasing complexities of
30 weapon systems leading to more complicated field build-up, storage, maintenance, testing, and deployment procedures. The analysis that integrates the above factors should

provide: expected quantity and likely time of repairs from the field; operational and stockpile availability estimates; prediction of reliability requirement of weapon hardware; prediction of maintainability characteristics for weapon hardware (e.g., hardware accessibility & modularity); spare weapon and spare parts requirements at
5 repair locations; and flow volumes of weapons and weapon parts through logistics pipeline infrastructure (prediction of the quantity of any cost-incurring event of interest)

Within the defense industry and government labs, weapon support systems are typically modeled with whatever tools and expertise are at hand at the time the model is needed. This can lead to inconsistencies between studies. Also the problem is often
10 broken up for simplicity. For example, a fielded spares analysis may be done independently of an availability analysis. This piecemeal approach can lead to inconsistency and inaccuracies as different ground rules and assumptions can be used between the models. Even if careful consideration was given to using consistent ground rules, the assumptions for bridging information between modeled components of a larger
15 system can oversimplify the effect of complex interdependencies of those components within the larger system.

It is also not uncommon within industry and government, even among some technical experts and engineers, to oversimplify the problem. For estimating future maintenance loads over a weapon program's life-cycle, for example, it is often thought
20 that a reasonable estimate of non-operational reliability is the most significant factor. Although important, non-operational reliability is often not the most significant factor. Consider this: Given an inventory of 1000 stored weapons, each with storage MTBF of 1,000,000 hours (10^6 hrs), if after 5 years (43,800 hrs) all are tested, the number of repairs will be $1,000 * (43,800 / 10^6) = 44$ weapons. However, if policy establishes that
25 entire inventory is to be tested 200 at a time, every year (8,760 hrs) for five years, the number of repairs will be for $\sum_{n=1 \text{ to } 5} 200 * (n * 8,760 / 10^6) = 26$ weapons.

Grossly over-simplistic by not accounting for any complicating factors mentioned previously, this example shows how just one aspect, test policy, can greatly influence the maintenance load outcome. Also, revisiting the point made earlier about
30 interdependencies, fewer failures detected affects other aspects of the system, such as population availability, logistics pipeline throughput (effecting transportation and other

infrastructure), and the reliability of a weapon up to the point of actual use. The one change in test policy has a domino affect on many aspects of the system. Clearly, an integrated approach should be taken when analyzing an Operations and Support system.

If the problem is attacked as a whole system, tools traditionally used include
5 spreadsheets or conventional computer programs. Mechanized arrays of equations implemented on a computer, otherwise known as spreadsheets, can easily oversimplify by either not modeling enough detail within support process (detail that can have unexpected impact on the output of the model), not capturing the dynamic aspects (e.g., surges in inventory demand), or not capturing the stochastic nature of the problem. If
10 built to accommodate all pertinent detail, dynamic, and probabilistic aspects of the system, the spreadsheet model will likely be very large and complicated, so as to be unwieldy, hard to use, difficult to modify and difficult for others to use.

There exists a need for effectively and holistically modeling and analyzing life cycle operations and support of missile and missile defense systems capturing the
15 complexity, interdependencies, and random nature of the problem. Any approach should affordably provide accurate, reusable and portable models for analyzing problem.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a discrete event simulation (DES) and method of
20 model development for DES useful for affordably providing accurate, reusable and portable models for analyzing the service use profile (SUP) of missile and missile defense systems. This is a repeatable and reliable statistical-based method for integrating interdependent elements of the SUP in the development of comprehensive simulation models to support multiple types of analyses. These models provide data useful for
25 assisting decision makers to sustain and maintain an operationally effective inventory of weapons over the product life-cycle. Common output from the models are time-based prediction of maintenance activities (warranted or non-warranted), prediction of stockpile and operational availability, logistics support requirements, weapon spares and weapon-part spares requirements.

30 This is accomplished by first creating a model of the O&S problem based on a service use profile (SUP) that describes a logical structure of delivery, maintenance,

deployment and testing policy and infrastructure and logistics constraints. The model is translated into a discrete event simulation in which dynamic objects (weapons) flow through a network of static objects that are organized in accordance with the model. The static objects are defined by data that is global with respect to the dynamic objects and functional operators at least some of which are probabilistic. Decisions are made based on the local state of a dynamic object or a global state of the network at least some of which are randomized in occurrence and/or time duration by the functional operators. Each dynamic object includes common attributes with unique deterministic or random values at least some of which are updated as the dynamic object flows through the network and decisions are made. The simulation outputs a time-based prediction of weapons availability, maintenance activities, and spare parts stock over a life cycle of the weapons system.

The DES and method of model development are enhanced by further defining common attributes for the dynamic objects and providing a library of common blocks and sub-models that support typical SUPs. The dynamic objects have any number of attributes that characterize the weapon. Among them are common attributes including Birth Date, TTF Variate, Duty Cycle, Warranty Cycle, Down Time, MTBF Variate, BitDetectable, GodsEye, and Weapon Variant. Certain attributes are dependent on environment and/or time. The common blocks represent fundamental and widely used calculations based on defined combinations of two or more simulation primitives or other embedded common blocks. Among them are BIT, Stockpile Availability, Observe A_o, Operational Availability, Warranty Check, Set Failure Variates, Service Life Check and Parts Spares. The sub-models are synergistic combinations of common attributes and common blocks that represent an even higher level of functionality. Among them are Test Effectiveness, Operational Availability, Reliability Growth and Degradation and Predict Repair Maintenance. The common attributes, common blocks and sub-models create a standardized and hierarchical toolkit for modeling a missile or missile defense system and designing a discrete event simulation that is tailored to the unique operations and support problem. The use and reuse of the tools by different designers on different projects will improve the consistency, accuracy and confidence in the simulation results. Furthermore, the toolkit will make construction of weapon system simulation models

more cost effective.

In one embodiment, discrete event simulation is used to model the availability of Exoatmospheric Kill Vehicles (EKVs) to (1) decide between two competing maintenance concepts A and B for the program, concepts that differ dramatically in cost; (2) quantify repairs of EKV payloads; and (3) identify major spares requirements for EKV payloads return. The EKV is organized into three high level hierarchical blocks (H blocks): (1) Delivery, Repair & Deployment; (2) Silo Storage and Periodic Test; and (3) Maintenance Returns. These blocks are built and interact using the common attributes and common blocks.

These and other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description of preferred embodiments, taken together with the accompanying drawings, in which:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGs. 1a through 1c are block diagrams of a Discrete Event Simulation of a missile or missile defense weapons system in accordance with the present invention;
FIG. 2 is a flowchart of model development for the DES;
FIG. 3 is a table of common attributes for dynamic objects;
FIG. 4 is a matrix that translates the model into a DES;
FIG. 5 is block diagram of a support use profile (SUP) represented as a network of static objects;
FIG. 6 is the block diagram of the SUP incorporating common blocks to monitor weapons availability;
FIG. 7 is a view of a library of common blocks useful in simulating weapons and weapons defense systems;
FIG. 8 is a block diagram of a generic common block;
FIG. 9 is block diagram of the Stockpile Availability common block;
FIG. 10 is block diagram of the set Failure Variates Common block;
FIG. 11 is block diagram of the Service Life Check common block;
FIG. 12 is block diagram of the Observe A_0 common block;
FIG. 13 is block diagram of the Operational Availability common block;

FIG. 14 is block diagram of the BIT common block;
FIG. 15 is block diagram of the Warranty Check common block;
FIGs. 16a through 16c are block diagrams of the Parts Spares common block;
FIG. 17 is a hierarchical block diagram of a DES for a weapons system;
5 FIG. 18 is a block diagram of a Test Effectiveness and Multiple Hardware Failure
sub-model;
FIG. 19 is a block diagram of an Operational Availability sub-model;
FIG. 20 is a block diagram of a Reliability Growth and Degradation sub-model;
FIG. 21 is a block diagram of a Predict Repair Maintenance sub-model;
10 FIGs. 22a and 22b are block diagrams of alternate maintenance concepts for an
EKV model;
FIG. 23 is a block diagram of the EKV model;
FIG. 24 is a detailed flow diagram of the Delivery Repair & Deployment H-block
FIG. 25 is a detailed flow diagram of the Silo Storage and Periodic Test H-block;
15 FIG. 26 is a detailed flow diagram of the Operations & Maintenance Returns H-
block; and
FIGs. 27a and 27b are views of input and output interfaces for the EKV model.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

20 A discrete event simulation (DES) and method of model development provide
affordable, accurate, pre-validated, reusable and portable models and simulations that
capture the complexity, interdependencies and stochastic nature of the operations and
support (O&S) of missile and missile defense weapons systems. A model of the O&S
problem is created based on a service use profile (SUP) that describes a logical structure
25 of delivery, maintenance, deployment, testing policy, infrastructure and logistics
constraints. That model is translated into a DES, preferably using a “toolkit” including
common attributes for the weapons and pre-validated common blocks and sub-models
that define higher level functionality. The DES calculates a time-based prediction of
weapons availability, maintenance activities, and spare parts stock over a life cycle of the
30 weapons system.

DES algorithms were originally developed in the 1950s but have only found

widespread use in the last decade with the advancement of portable computer technology and simulation software such as Extend. DES has been used to analyze manufacturing scenarios, traffic, computer and satellite networks, material handling, supply chains and business process re-engineering, often to investigate and help alleviate system
5 congestion, queuing or “bottlenecking” from high volumes.

DES for Missile and Missile Defense Systems

As shown in figure 1a, a DES **10** is a representation of a system that partitions the timeline of the system into a sequence of asynchronous state changes. Each state change
10 is referred to as an “event”. In a DES, there is a global system clock **12** and future event schedule **14** that lists events ranked from earliest to latest along the timeline. During DES execution, at each event instance, a simulation engine **16** updates the future events schedule **14** (step **18**) with new future event(s) whose times of occurrence can be deterministically or randomly determined, advances the clock to the most imminent
15 event time (step **20**) and performs the event logic (step **22**). The sequence of state changes execute a model based on a service use profile (SUP) that describes a logical structure of delivery, maintenance, deployment and testing policy and infrastructure and logistics constraints to calculate a time-based prediction of weapons availability, maintenance activities, and spare parts stock over a life cycle of the weapons system.

As shown in figure 1b, another element of the DES algorithm is a class of
20 structured objects. Objects may be static objects (SOs) **30** (permanent and predefined) or dynamic objects (DOs) **32** (created and destroyed as needed). The static objects **30** include data that is global with respect to the dynamic objects and functional operators, at least some of which are probabilistic. The dynamic objects **34** include attributes that
25 are local and represent characteristics of weapons. Static objects can be generally thought of as building blocks that form a network **34** over which the dynamic objects traverse. The network describes the logical structure of the logistics pipeline, the maintenance concept (any scheduled or preventive maintenance event calendar or schedule), unit delivery schedules, deployed and stored weapon populations, the testing frequencies and
30 policies, and any significant infrastructure or process element or constraint of the SUP. The network is completely defined by a list of static objects (primitives from a library

available in DES software packages such as Extend), designer specified parameters for the primitives, a topology that specifies how the static objects are interconnected, and an instruction set that provides the mathematical or logic rules for manipulation of dynamic objects and calculation of statistics or other information.

5 The values of the attributes define a local state of each dynamic object and the parameters and other settings define local states for each static object. The states of all the static and dynamic objects define a global state for the modeled network. The simulation engine updates the future events schedule in accordance with current values of the local and global states, advances the simulation to the next state change along a
10 timeline **36** and performs the logic dictated by the network. More specifically, the static objects operate on the dynamic objects and/or their attributes in accordance with their functional operators and global data. Common primitive operations include DO delays (scheduling DOs for Future Events), reading, writing, and/or performing arithmetic operations on attributes of DOs, splitting one DO into multiple DOs, or merging multiple
15 DOs together, gathering and compiling information and statistics on DOs, seizing or releasing global static resources objects, and queuing DOs and routing DOs. The simulation engine defines and drives the timeline, updating the state of the modeled network at discrete points in time, those points generally being separated by unequal intervals of time.

20 A designer practiced in the art of simulation tasked to implement a straightforward application to the problem of modeling full-scale, life-cycle operations and support processes for weapons systems will encounter technical obstacles that include:

- 25 1) Granularity: How much detail (event break-down) is needed to provide meaningful outputs. This presents a scalability problem especially apparent when developing large models;
- 2) Sub-populations: How to handle and control sub-populations of the dynamic objects that encounter different environments thereby affecting the reliability of those members;
- 30 3) Reliability Change: How to characterize reliability growth in the model, i.e., the initial improvement of reliability for a new weapon program, and

conversely how to model degradation of reliability, i.e. the eventual increase in failure rate as weapons age, given data provided from a service life extension study of a mature weapon system;

- 4) Weapons Testing Specifics: How to model test effectiveness for the weapon, false test alarms, and the possibility of multiple failures on the same piece of hardware;
- 5) Manageability: How to keep the model manageable: easy to modify, easy to understand by others, and
- 6) Reusability: How to make the model usable by others who may not be familiar with simulation and/or statistical design of experiments.

As shown in figure 1c, these obstacles are overcome through the creation and use of a “toolkit” in which common attributes 40 are defined for the dynamic objects 32, a library of common blocks 42 is provided, and sub-models 44 of common blocks and common attributes are defined. The dynamic objects have a minimum set of “common” attributes that standardize the data that is essential for calculating the time-based predictions. The common blocks 42 include a plurality of primitive blocks 46 and/or embedded common blocks 48 having a defined topology and instruction set to perform different functions that are generally useful and reused often when modeling and simulating O&S of missile and missile defense weapons systems.

The common blocks represent a higher level of functionality than the primitives, one that is tailored to the requirements of weapons systems simulations and pre-validated. The functionality of common blocks fall into one of three general types: DO routing based upon attributes of DOs and/or global data input to the block; DO modification based upon attributes of DOs and/or global data input to the block; and Statistics/Information calculation based upon DOs and/or global data input to the block. A designer may set specific parameters of the common or primitive blocks to tailor the function to a particular model. The sub-models 44 are an even higher level of functionality that, again, has been validated for weapons systems applications.

The creation and use of the toolkit will reduce the amount of time required to design, implement and validate a simulation. The use of pre-validated common blocks and synergistic combinations will improve the accuracy and the reliability of a

simulation. The reuse of the toolkit by many designers for many different weapons systems will produce repeatable and consistent results that will only help to reinforce the validity of DES for these extremely large scale and complicated problems.

5 More specifically the challenges of a rote application of known modeling techniques and DES to the O&S problem for missile and missile defense systems are overcome. The granularity of the common attributes and the hierarchical structure of primitives, common blocks and sub-models address the granularity issue. The inclusion of a “Weapon Variant” common attribute allows tagging a dynamic object as being part of a specific subpopulation. Reliability growth and degradation of failure rate are
10 addressed by characterizing the MTBF attribute as a function of DO age and/or weapon program maturity and using it together with a service life common block. A “BitDetectable” attribute, false alarm setting and a BIT common block together address problems of weapons testing. Lastly, the methodology of developing the model from the SUP together with the use of common attributes, common blocks and sub-models make
15 the models and simulation more manageable and increasingly reusable.

Model and Simulation Development

The methodology for creating a comprehensive model that describes a particular missile or missile defense system and then translating that model into a valid and reliable
20 discrete event simulation is complicated. The sheer scale of weapons systems O&S analysis, considering the number and differing variants of weapons, the complexity of weapons tests, the number of different observations that must be made, the interdependency of those observations, the granularity as a function of time and environment, etc. requires a systematic approach for developing the model and DES.
25 The definition of a SUP and the use of the common attributes and pre-validated common blocks and sub-models simplify the process and improves consistency. For each designer to use an ad hoc approach using only the primitives supported by a particular software package and redefining all static and dynamic objects on a case-by-case basis would be inefficient and induce inconsistency between modeling projects.

30 At the highest level, the methodology includes defining the O&S problem (step 60), creating a model of the O&S problem based on a service use profile (SUP) that

describes a logical structure of delivery, maintenance, deployment and testing policy, and infrastructure and logistics constraints (step 62), translating the model into a discrete event simulation (step 64) using common attributes, common blocks and sub-models, and validating the discrete event simulation (step 66).

- 5 At the level of actually designing and implementing a model, the methodology is far more complex. The steps are interdependent and iterative in nature to accurately characterize such complex systems. The methodology is as follows:

10 Formulate and Plan. The designer and the client(s) come together to discuss details of the system that is the basis for the simulation study. The designer becomes familiar in intimate detail with the characteristics and purpose of the system that is to be modeled, with any and all alternatives to be considered, and with the objectives of the simulation study as seen through the eyes of the client.

15 Model Definition and Data Collection. Data for an O&S study includes failure rate data of the weapon, testing frequencies, transportation times, and any constraining factors in the system, which together comprise the SUP. Defining the model involves determining which aspects of the system to represent, and at which levels

20 of detail, versus aspects of the system judged not to add value to the study. Valid judgment depends on both the objectives of the study, and on the experience and expertise of the designer. The existence and later use of common attributes and common blocks will reduce the variability in model definition and data collection. The specific steps include:

25

Conceptualization of Service Use Profile (SUP): A Service Use Profile (SUP) can be thought of as a support system with the purpose of keeping an acceptably high-level of readiness of the weapons population at the lowest possible cost. The SUP defines the flow of weapons and possibly weapon sections and parts, through the support
30 infrastructure over the weapon program life. This support infrastructure includes transport equipment, test equipment, maintenance facilities, storage facilities such as

bunkers or magazines, and platforms for the deployment of the weapons (for training or combat) such as ships or aircraft. Implicit in the SUP is a maintenance concept that defines where repair or scheduled maintenance activity will occur (based on the type of maintenance performed), test/inspection policies, and the location for weapon or section
5 spares pools. Multiple SUP concepts, often differing by maintenance concept, are typically considered for a new weapon support system. These alternatives are then measured against each other to determine the best concept for affordably and effectively deploying the weapons. If a SUP already exists for a weapon system, it will generally require decomposition or tailoring to meet the needs of the particular analysis. For
10 example, a transportation node may be broken into air transport and rail transport if this detail is deemed important for the analysis.

The basic inputs for defining a SUP are (1) the maintenance/test concept, which includes (a) frequency and location of scheduled maintenance (if any), and (b) level of repair for unscheduled maintenance. The level of repair includes location of repair
15 facilities (Field, Depot, or some intermediate location) and the type of repairs, e.g., removal & replacement of major section only and circuit card repair are two extremes. Other basic inputs to the SUP are (2) locations of spares pools to support repair actions, (3) test policies including frequency of routine "health checks" and event driven tests, e.g., pre-launch BIT, and (4) identification and characterization of environments weapons
20 will encounter. Given a defined SUP, the remaining factors affecting the readiness of the weapons population are the inherent supportability characteristics of the weapon itself, e.g., inherent reliability, ease of test, and mean time to repair.

Preliminary Validation. All the above data, commonly referred to as "ground rules and assumptions", is disclosed and then approved by the client(s).

25 Rendering of SUP: Populations of Weapon/Defense elements are comprised of dynamic objects that are guided through a network object. The network object incorporates decision points (static objects) that are organized in accordance with the weapon SUP, e.g., test locations.

Decision Making: Decisions during simulation are made based on either the state
30 of an individual dynamic object or a state of a static object at a specific point along the simulation timeline. State changes of the dynamic object or network object can be

random in occurrence and/or time duration to approximate actual system variability.

Use of Common Attributes: As illustrated in figure 3, each dynamic object includes a minimum set of common attributes **80** that have been found to be useful in providing the desired detail and facilitating the desired observations. The set preferably includes the following attributes:

1. Birth Date **82**: Stores time at which Hardware was first delivered and issued to inventory;

2. TTF Variate (m) **84**: Stores the randomly determined time-to-failure (TTF) at which hardware will fail. Different values are defined for multiple environments. For example, storage, transportation, deployment. These are set/reset whenever hardware is issued/reissued. A cycles-to-failure (CTF) may also be used;

3. Duty Cycle (m) **86**: Accumulators for time or cycles spent in various states/environments. These are reset to zero whenever hardware is reissued;

4. Warranty Cycle (m) **88**: Accumulators for time or cycles spent in various states/environments. These are never reset;

5. Down Time **90**: Accumulator for time spent while hardware is not RFI.

6. MTBF (m) **92**: Stores Mean Time Between Failure for specific environments, which can change over the life of the weapon to approximate reliability growth or hardware degradation over time. MTBF can also be correlated to Weapon Variant;

7. BitDetectable **94**: Randomly generated flag to indicate if a test will be effective at detecting a failure in the weapon hardware;

8. Weapon Variant (m) **96**: Marks the dynamic object as being a particular type of weapon, i.e. belonging to a particular sub-population; and

9. GodsEye **97**: Indicates whether a defective weapon object is detectable by field test equipment.

Characterization of Sub-Populations: The characterization of sub-populations of weapon variants using sub-groups of dynamic objects, where these sub-groups are controlled according to the rules of the SUP (e.g., Weapon Variant A has a different scheduled maintenance schedule than Weapon Variant B, or a different MTBF than Weapon Variant B).

Correlating SUP to network: A standardized level of detail for the SUP, correlated to the “granularity” of the blocks and decision points of the network object, providing a sufficiently accurate representation for typically encountered O&S analyses needs in defense industry and government. Standardized level of detail is facilitated through the use of the common block library.

Standard conceptual methods: Standard conceptual methods are used to apply the DES object/common attribute scheme and general DES constructs such as global resource blocks, to handle specific problems encountered when modeling O&S processes.

10

Construct Computer Model and Verify. The conceptual model with the validated ground rules and assumptions is translated into computerized form. Elements cross-referenced between the conceptual model and computer model are illustrated in matrix 110 in figure 4. The SUP, after tailoring to a level of detail consistent with standardized common blocks, is converted into a network of DES static objects. Weapon hardware units are represented by dynamic objects in which specific characteristics of individual weapons are represented through attributes of the dynamic objects. Sub-populations of weapons are treated differently by defining different interactions for, and alternate routing between, the dynamic and static objects. Higher levels of functionality in the SUP are provided by sub-models constructed from combinations of common blocks referencing common attributes of the dynamic objects.

20

Figure 5 is a simplified display of a SUP shown as a network 112 of static objects 114 (solid lines) that is traversed by dynamic objects (missiles) 116 having common attributes 118. In this particular example, the static objects would represent such functions as transportation, storage, repair, production schedule and testing. As illustrated in figure 6, common blocks 120 (dashed lines) have been added to the network to support the computation of the time-based predictions of both stockpile and operational availability. Figure 6 also illustrates the use of common attributes via reading and augmentation of the downtime attribute 90.

25

At this point the computer model must be verified. This is not low-level debugging of the computer program (debugging of this type must be done before

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verification), but rather a process for ensuring that the computer rendering faithfully and accurately reflects the conceptual model. Verification of the model logic is performed by checking the output of portions of the model with hand calculations (colloquially called "sanity checks"), and through using animation, common in many simulation packages, to ensure dynamic objects (weapons) are moving as expected through the computer modeled process flow. The use of previously verified common attributes and common blocks will streamline and shorten the verification process.

Experimental Design. The goal of experimental design is to obtain statistically valid results from the simulation. Most O&S simulations will involve what statisticians call transient conditions: production ramp-up, en-mass happenings such as the recalls of weapons from the field for scheduled maintenance, or wartime engagement attrition. Transient or replicating simulation models involve multiple runs (i.e., replications). The other alternative to replicating simulation would be steady state simulation, where a simulation model is run only once, but goes through a "warm-up" period. The number of runs required for the replicating simulation is determined during the pilot runs. There are very complex mathematical ways to do this, however, it is easier and simpler to just run the model and bracket the replication quantity (increase lower bound, decrease upper bound), until a safe, yet minimal, number of replications is found. Within a replicating simulation there can be metrics that should reach steady-state before they are reported. Availability is a good example: during delivery ramp-up availability can vary widely as the population (therefore the sample size) can start very small. Therefore, the running averages of population availability may be reset after the production program ends. Resetting a statistic throws out previous observation, so that subsequent observations are not biased by the earlier ones. This capability is built into the computer model.

Pilot Runs and Final Validation. Preliminary simulation runs are conducted to 1) get a statistical feel for model output, 2) provide results that can be used to

plan later production runs (determining sensitive parameters of the system, indicating future trades study needs), and 3) provide validation. If the computer model has been built for an existing system and performance measures have been collected for the system, then direct comparisons can be made to
5 validate the computer model. If the computer model is constructed for a system that does not as yet exist, then a comparable existing system should be used.

Production Runs. Full simulations are conducted to obtain output data including time-
10 based prediction of weapons availability, maintenance activities, and spare parts stock over a life cycle of the weapons system.

Analyze Output Data. Output results are compared to estimate system performance under different system settings. Sometimes statistical analysis such as hypothesis testing is
15 required to determine if differences between two simulations are significant.

Document and Implement Results. The objectives, ground rules and assumptions, experiments conducted, and results are recorded and presented to client(s) to aide their decisions.

20

Common Blocks

Common blocks represent a higher level of functionality than the lowest level operations performed by the primitive blocks provided in the simulation software package. The functionality is both common in weapons system models and useful in
25 providing the time-based predictions. As shown in figure 7, the use and reuse of a library 140 of pre-defined and pre-verified common blocks including but not limited to a Stockpile Availability block 142, Set Failure Variates block 144, Service Life Check block 146, Observe A_0 block 148, BIT Test block 150, Warranty Check block 152, Operational Availability block 154, and Parts Spares block 156 is far more effective than
30 recreating the functionality on the fly in an ad hoc manner. The resulting models are more reliable and produce more consistent results.

As shown in figure 8, a common block 160 comprises a plurality of primitive blocks and embedded common blocks configured with a defined topology and instructions set to perform dynamic object (DO) operations 162 and data manipulation 164. The common block receives as inputs a dynamic object and/or global data and outputs the updated dynamic object and/or global data. The schema (topology and instruction set) of primitives/blocks and data used within a given common block defines its function, which fall into one of three general types: (1) DO routing based upon attributes of DOs and/or global data input to the block, (2) DO modification based upon attributes of DOs and/or global data input to the block, and (3) Statistics/Information calculation based upon DOs and/or global data input to the block.

The common block can be tailored for a specific model by specifying parameters, constraints, etc. via an interface 166. Primitive static blocks within common blocks have fields whose values are initially adjusted by the designer, and may later be changed by a user. For example, a random number generator primitive within a common block may have a menu for describing a particular statistical distribution, and a field for the mean parameter of that distribution. If these fields are deemed important to the function of the common block, and if the software technology allows, those fields could be made an interface 166 for the common block itself, enhancing the future usage of the common block 160.

20

Stockpile Availability

The Stockpile Availability block provides a measure A_s of the percentage of weapons in a stockpile that are “ready for issue” (RFI) into deployment. A_s is a purely “numbers” based statistic (as opposed to Operational Availability which is “time” based). A_s is one important indicator of the readiness of a population, indicating the percentage of the deployed inventory that will work whenever called upon. The denominator RFI is driven by factors of the support-system SUP such as maintenance and transport times, and inherent reliability of the hardware. A_s is a measure of how all these factors fold together to support the readiness of the inventory.

30

The Stockpile Availability block is defined as follows:

Inputs: (1) RFI: RFI is the number ready for use;
 (2) Nd: Nd is the numbered delivered to the stockpile; and
 (3) Att: Att is the attrition or number spent.
 Function f(): $A_s = RFI / (Nd - Att)$
 5 DO Manipulation: None
 Outputs: (1) A_s (running average, scalar and time-plotted); and
 (2) Hardware unit population

As shown in figure 9, the Stockpile Availability block **170** is implemented using a
 10 number of primitive blocks. The primitives used, the topology and the instruction set are
 determined by the simulation software and designer choice, other combinations may be
 equally effective. To form the denominator, a Subtraction primitive **172** subtracts the
 attrition (Att) input **174** from the number of weapons delivered (Nd) **176**. The
 denominator value is passed to a Read Out primitive **178** to make this value available for
 15 display during simulation, an output connection **180** of the encasing block to make this
 value available for use through connection to other external blocks, one input to a Plotter
 primitive **182** that provides a time-based graph of population changes, and a Stop
 Message primitive **184** that ensures proper input as a denominator in the next primitive.
 To form the numerator, a Subtraction primitive **186** subtracts the units of resource
 20 available (NOT RFI) generated by a Resource Pool primitive **188** from the capacity of
 the resource pool provided by a Constant primitive **190**. The Resource Pool primitive, a
 utility common too many simulation software packages. It is used here for tracking
 hardware that is RFI. Hardware uses one unit of resource when RFI and relinquishes that
 unit whenever becoming not RFI, e.g., the hardware fails BIT or becomes due for
 25 scheduled maintenance. The advantage of using the Resource Pool primitive is that it is
 global and can be easily referenced and updated from anywhere within the model. The
 numerator value is passed to a Read Out primitive **192**, a second input of Plotter
 primitive **182** and a Division primitive **194**.

Division primitive **194** divides the numerator by the denominator to calculate the
 30 stockpile availability A_s . An Equation primitive **196** contains an equation to ensure that
 the initial input to the Mean and Variance primitive **198** is one and never zero thereby

producing input for a smooth curve to be plotted in the Plotter primitive **200**. The Generator primitive **202** produces one dynamic object at a user specified time. At that time this object is briefly delayed in Delay primitive **204**. This Delay primitive sends a positive signal from its “T” connector to reset the Mean and Variance primitive **198**, effectively resetting the running average at that user specified time input to primitive **202**. Running averages of A_s are typically reset (old observations discarded) after delivery ramp-up. The dynamic object is then discarded in the Exit primitive **206**. The plotter and display field from this block can be used to provide plotted or scalar A_s statistics to as part of an output interface of the model, or this common block.

Set Failure Variates

The DES O&S model will have dynamic objects with MTBF and Time-To-Failure (TTF) Variate attributes. The Set Failure Variates block ensures that those MTBF attributes are correctly read, converted to the correct time units, used as mean parameters in (default) exponential random number generators that generate single TTF Variates of that distribution to be written to the appropriate TTF Variate attributes of the dynamic object. Multiple TTF attributes provide statistically determined thresholds for failure in multiple environments, e.g. stored, transported or deployed. If one threshold is breached, the dynamic object is in a “true” failed state. Not until the dynamic object is (effectively) tested through the BIT common block, will corrective action be taken. The Set Failure Variates block also determines if the next failed state will be detected by BIT by randomly assigning, with user specified probability, either a 0 or a 1 to the object’s BitDetectable attribute.

The Set Failure Variates block is defined as follows:

Inputs: (1) Dynamic Object;
 (2) Test Effectiveness
 (3) MTBF values (multiple for different environments)

Function f(): Exponential (default) for calculating failure variates
 Specifically $TTF = MTBF(-\ln(1-r))$, or if using cycles
 $CTF = MCBF(-\ln(1-r))$, where r is Uniform $RN[0..1]$

DO Manipulation: Assign Attributes

- Outputs: (1) dynamic object with defined TTF Variates
(2) dynamic object with defined BitDetectable attribute

5 As shown in figure 10, the Set Failure Variates block **210** is implemented using a number of primitive blocks and embedded hierarchical blocks (H-blocks). The primitives and H-blocks used, the topology and the instruction set are determined by the simulation software and designer choice, other combinations may be equally effective. The dynamic object enters the block through object Connector **211**, and then a Queue
10 primitive **212**. The Queue prevents the corruption of downstream data in cases where dynamic objects arrive simultaneously, by releasing objects one at a time through the common block. Multiple MTBF attributes **213, 214, 215** corresponding to different environments are read from the dynamic object and sent to multiple H-blocks **220, 221, 222**. Each of these H-blocks converts input MTBF values into the global time units
15 specified by the designer. (if using cycles, MCTF inputs are unaffected.) These converted MTBF values are sent out from the left-side of the H-blocks **220, 221, 222**, and then out of the common block through connectors **217, 218, 219** for possible use in other external blocks. Also, H-blocks **220, 221, 222** use the converted MTBF as mean
20 parameters in a random number generator contained within each H-block. The default distribution is exponential, so that the resultant output from the right-side of the each H-block are single point variates from exponential distributions. These values are sent to Set Attribute primitive **216**, assigning TTF thresholds to the appropriate attribute on the dynamic object. The DutyCycle attributes are also zeroed in Set Attribute primitive **216**.
25 The Random Number Generator primitive **223** randomly generates, with user specified probability (the test effectiveness), a value that will determine if the dynamic object, should it fail in the future, be detectable by the field test equipment. This binomial value is assigned to the dynamic object by the Set Attribute primitive **216**.

Service Life Check

30 The Service Life Check common block has flexible functionality. It is used to make decisions on how to handle dynamic objects if they age beyond a user defined

service life. If the age of dynamic objects that enter this block is determined to be greater than the specified service life, a decision is then made to either 1) take the dynamic object out of inventory and destroy it or 2) assign a new MTBF to the item, the value of which is determined from a user specified function that can be time-based. For this second option, the failure variates (TTF and MTBF) of the dynamic object are then reset in an embedded Set Failure Variates common block. Making MTBF progressively smaller as a function of time effectively approximates the “wear-out” of weapon hardware when aging beyond its specified service life. This is a powerful modeling detail for producing models designed for analyzing service life extension of mature weapon systems, where there is much historical reliability data to draw upon. Service Life Check blocks are multiple and strategically placed in the SUP model to ensure prompt implementation of their functions on the modeled population.

The Service Life Check block is defined as follows:

15	Inputs:	(1) Dynamic Object; (4) User specified service life threshold (N); (3) User specified decision flag to decide to either destroy object or change MTBF
	Function f():	Calculation of weapon object age and comparison with N
20	DO Manipulation:	Possible removal (destruction) from model. Possible update of MTBF and TTF variates.
	Outputs:	(1) dynamic object with updated TTF variates

As shown in figure 10, the service life check block **229** is implemented using a number of primitive blocks and an embedded hierarchical block (H-block). The primitives and H-block used, the topology and the instruction set are determined by the simulation software and designer choice, other combinations may be equally effective. The dynamic object enters the block through object Connector **230** and then a Queue primitive **231**. The Queue prevents the corruption of downstream data in cases where dynamic objects arrive simultaneously, by releasing objects one at a time through the common block. The Birth Date attribute of the dynamic object is read by the Read

Attribute primitive **232** and then input to Equation primitive **234**. Also input to the equation is the specified global service life provided through value input connector **233**. The Equation primitive **234** calculates the current age of the weapon and compares this value to the global service life. Based on this result, the equation outputs a binomial to the Select Output primitive **236** that routes the dynamic weapon object to its top output (age of weapon object less than service life) or bottom output (age greater than service life). If age is less than the specified service life, the weapon object is routed to the Combine primitive **246**, that simply combines objects from two sources to one path, and then out of the common block through connector **247**.

In cases where the dynamic object age is greater than the service life, the dynamic object is routed to another Select Output primitive **237** where, based upon the value of the user specified decision flag provided through input connect **235**, the dynamic object is to be either taken out of service or have its MTBF and TTF Variates updated. If taken out of service, the dynamic object is routed to Release Resource Pool primitive **238**, where one unit from the global RFI resource pool will be relinquished to update the stockpile availability statistic, and then destroyed with the Exit primitive **239**. If based upon the value of the user specified decision flag the dynamic object is not taken from service, it is routed through another Queue primitive **240** to a Read primitive **241** where its Birth Date attribute is accessed again to calculate its age using a Current Time System Variable primitive **242** and Subtraction primitive **243**. The dynamic object's age, current time minus Birth Date, is input to a Conversion Table primitive **244** that correlates the age input to an MTBF output. The output can either be stepped or interpolated for age inputs falling between the tabular data provided in this primitive. The updated MTBF output from Conversion Table primitive **244** is sent to Set Attribute primitive **248** which supplies the new MTBF to the dynamic object. New TTF variates are provided to the object with embedded common block Set Failure Variates **245** before the dynamic object exits through Combine block **246** and output connector **247**.

Observe A_0

The observe A_0 common block is designed to be used in conjunction with the operational availability common block. It calculates and outputs multiple single point

estimates of A_o that are used by the operational availability block to find an average operational availability statistic for the population. This common block is to be placed strategically at multiple points throughout the main model. The single point estimate is calculated as: A_{os} (A_o single point) = $1 - \text{Down Time}(\text{DT}) / (\text{CurrentTime} - \text{Birth Date}(\text{BT}))$).

The Observe A_o block is defined as follows:

Inputs:	(1)	Dynamic Object;
Function $f()$:		$A_{os} = 1 - \text{DT} / (\text{CurrentTime} - \text{BT})$
DO Manipulation:		None, Birth Date and Down Time attributes are read only
Outputs:	(1)	Single point estimate of A_o
	(2)	Count of the number of observations to date

As shown in figure 12, the Observe A_o block **250** is implemented using primitive blocks only. The primitives used, the topology and the instruction set are determined by the simulation software and designer choice, other combinations may be equally effective. The dynamic object enters the block through object Connector **251** and then a Queue primitive **252**. The Queue prevents the corruption of downstream data in cases where dynamic objects arrive simultaneously, by releasing objects one at a time through the common block. The dynamic object's Birth Date and Down Time attributes are read with Get Attribute primitives **253** and **254**, respectively, after the total number of observations is incremented by Count primitive **255**. This total "CountOut" is sent out from the common block through a value output Connector **260**. Stop Message primitive **256** ensures Down Time value is correctly used with Birth Date value in the Equation primitive **257**. This primitive calculates A_{os} as defined via a dialog box **261** and sends the value out of the block through output value Connector **259**. The dynamic object leaves unmodified through item output connector **258**. Note that value outputs A_{os} are to be read continuously from this block by the Operational Availability common block, whereas the cumulative count values are to be read at set discrete point along the simulation timeline. The reason for this will be explained in the Operational Availability common block.

Operational Availability

Operational availability (A_o) is an important indicator of the readiness of a population. It is a time-based statistic (as opposed to Stockpile Availability which is “numbers” based. It essentially indicates the mean amount of time weapons spend in an operational state. This block works synergistically with the Observe A_o common block that feeds single point estimates, or variates, of the overall average A_o to be calculated by this common block. A_o is driven by factors of the support-system SUP such as maintenance and transport times, and inherent reliability of the hardware. This statistic is a measure of how all these factors fold together to support the readiness of the inventory.

The Operational Availability block is defined as follows:

Inputs:	(1)	variates of A_{o_s} , observed from multiple points in the main model,
	(5)	corresponding counts of the number of observations from each observation point.
Function $f()$:		running averages, reset periodically, are multiplied by the cumulative number of observations for each average, effectively weighting the average for each A_{o_s} input. These weighted averages are then added together and divided by the total cumulative observations, yielding an overall A_o for the population.
DO Manipulation:		None
Outputs:	(1)	A_o (running average, scalar and time-plotted)

As shown in figure 13, the Operational Availability common block 270 is implemented using a number of primitive blocks. The primitives used, the topology and the instruction set are determined by the simulation software and designer choice, other combinations may be equally effective. The default configuration of this model accepts four A_{o_s} variates from four points in the main model. Therefore there are four value input connectors for A_{o_s} 271,272, 273 and 274 and four value input connectors feeding

cumulative counts from each location 275, 276, 277 and 278. The A_0 s values are input to Mean and Variance (“M/V”) primitives 279, 280, 281 and 282 that maintain running averages of their inputs that are updated every instance a weapon object is observed from the respective Observe A_0 common block. These averages from primitives 279, 280, 281
5 and 282 and the corresponding number of observations from connectors 275, 276, 277 and 278, feed Multiplication primitives 283, 284, 285 and 286, yielding weighted averages from each location. The weighted averages are summed with Addition primitives 287 and 289, and input as the numerator to Division primitive 291, whose denominator is the sum provided from Addition primitives 288 and 290 of all
10 observations. Division primitive 291 outputs a mean population A_0 to a Retain primitive 292. The Retain primitive block holds and outputs a constant value until reset through its bottom “T” connector. When it is “pulse” reset, it will then read the value at its input, hold and output that value until it is “pulsed” again. The Retain primitive is used to provide periodic, rather than continuous, data stream to the Plotter primitive 300 (thus
15 saving computer memory and preventing the Plotter from data overflow) that plots a running average of the mean 301. Blocks 296, 297, 298 and 299, a Resource, two Activity Delays, and a Decision primitive block provide the periodic “pulsed” reset to the Retain primitive 292.

This common block is designed so that the user may reset the overall running
20 average of operational availability anytime desired (normally after all deliveries of weapon objects). To do this a Generator primitive 293, feeds one DO, at a user-specified time, to Activity Delay primitive 294, and Exit primitive 295. The Activity Delay holds the DO for a very short instance, sending a pulse reset signal through Named Connector (Reset) 302, and resetting the Mean and Variance primitives 279, 280, 281 and 282. The
25 Generator primitive 293 contains a field for specifying the time a DO is generated to affect a statistics reset. This field, and the Plotter primitive 300, are typically included in a user interface for the main model.

Built-In-Test (BIT)

30 Field BIT is a common means for testing weapon hardware. It involves field test equipment and also hardware circuitry contained in the weapon itself. Today’s weapons

are very complex machines and, as they have grown in complexity, they have become more difficult to reliably test. Two common measures for indicating the fallibility of field test equipment applied to weapons are 1) test effectiveness and 2) false alarm rate. Test effectiveness can be defined in more than one way. For this method test effectiveness is defined as the proportion of the weapon hardware that is susceptible to the test equipment. Defined as such, faults that occur on the modeled dynamic object can be considered to be either “inside” that proportion that is susceptible to test, or “outside” of that test-susceptible proportion. The other measure of fallibility of the test equipment, false alarm rate, is not so complicated to model (although likely very complicated to mitigate in reality). This is correctly treated as a randomized rate of false positives to characterize the sporadic nature of this limitation in the test equipment.

Complicating the problem of modeling BIT is the fact that complex hardware can contain multiple faults. After considering the fact that missile hardware almost never contains redundant systems, in other words, one defect will always fail the whole unit, multiple faults may not seem to present such a problem to model: One fault breaks the series-chain and the whole unit can be considered failed. Test effectiveness, however, throws a twist to this. If a fault occurs in a section of the missile not susceptible to BIT, it will go undetected until that missile: experiences a fault that is detectable and is repaired (the assumption here is that depot repair processes will always catch defects that are undetectable by field test); undergoes a routine maintenance; or actual use (firing) is attempted.

Incorporated into the BIT common block is a modeling method for solving this problem by pre-assigning the dynamic object as being either BIT detectable or not BIT detectable. Then, if a fault occurs (fault modeling process detailed below) on a dynamic object that is marked as not BIT detectable, the weapon object is 1) marked as “failed”, in a “God’s-eye” attribute and 2) reinitialized with new failure variates and random BitDetectable attribute, and 3) the DutyCycle attributes are zeroed. If the dynamic object is attempted for use, its God’s-eye attribute will be examined and it will fail launch. If it is tested again, it will pass, so long as none of its newly assigned TTF variates have been breached. Also, this dynamic object that has a pre-existing fault that is not susceptible to BIT, because its BitDetectable attribute had been randomly reinitialized, has a positive

probability of having yet another failure not susceptible to BIT. Finally, if the dynamic object undergoes scheduled or unscheduled maintenance, its Gods-eye attribute will be reset to an “un-failed” state. Dynamic objects that fail from the BIT common block relinquish a unit of resource from the RFI resource pool, and are time-stamped, so that
5 after the dynamic object is repaired in the future, its downtime attribute can be augmented, facilitating accurate observations of operational availability (performed through the Observe Ao and Operational Availability common blocks)

This modeling process for test effectiveness, with this functionality for supporting availability calculation , modeled false alarm, and multiple TTF variates for multiple
10 environment compared with multiple duty cycle accumulators, all combined in one portable block that can be pulled from a library and used anywhere required with the main model, makes for a very powerful weapon-hardware test modeling capability.

The BIT Test block is defined as follows:

15	Inputs:	(1) dynamic object;
	Function f():	Comparisons of TTF variate attributes with respective Duty Cycle attributes. Simple routing logic for False Alarm. Time stamping object and relinquishing RFI resource pool for weapon objects entering failed state
20	DO Manipulation:	Routing and attribute setting
	Outputs:	(1) Un-failed dynamic object that has passed BIT (An effectively tested weapon)
		(2) Failed dynamic object that has passed BIT (An un-effectively tested weapon)
25		(3) Un-failed dynamic object that has failed BIT (A false alarm)
		(4) Un-failed dynamic object that has passed BIT, but has an undetectable defect.

30 As shown in figure 14, the Bit Test block 300 is implemented using a number of primitive blocks, two hierarchical blocks (H-blocks), and one embedded common block.

The primitives used, the topology and the instruction set are determined by the simulation software and designer choice, other combinations may be equally effective. The dynamic object enters the block through object input Connector **301** and then into Queue primitive **302**. All Queues primitives **302**, **312** and **315** used in this block prevent
5 the corruption of downstream data in cases where dynamic objects arrive simultaneously, by releasing dynamic objects one at a time through sections of the common block. The dynamic object is then subject to routing by a Select Output primitive **305**, controlled by a Random Number Generator primitive **303** and Decision primitive **304**. These three blocks **305**, **303** and **304** work to emulate random false alarm events that, if determined
10 as false alarm, will route the dynamic object to the bottom output of block **305**. Objects routed thusly will be marked as false alarms by Set Attribute primitive **306**, combined to another part of the network through Combine primitive **307**, relinquish one unit of the RFI resource through passing through Release Resource primitive **308**, time-stamped with current time System Variable primitive **309** and Set Attribute **310** before finally
15 leaving this common block through (failed) object output Connector **311**.

The BitDetectable attribute of dynamic objects leaving the top output of Select Output primitive **305** after passing through Queue primitive **312** will be read by Get Attribute primitive **313** and routed directly by the value of that attribute (0 or 1) using Select Output primitive **314**. If the dynamic object was marked as detectable by BIT it is
20 directed through Queue **315** into H-block **316**, where its TTF Variate attributes are compared with respective Duty Cycle accumulators. Based upon this comparison dynamic objects are routed to either the Pass or Fail output of the God's eye H-block **316**. If the object failed, it is routed to Combine primitive **307**, Release (RFI) Resource **308**, time stamped **309** and **310**, and exits the block through (failed) Connector **311**. If the
25 dynamic object passed, it is routed to output Connector **318** after combining with another part of the network through Combine primitive **317**.

Backtracking to Select Output primitive **305**, the top output feeds non-detectable dynamic objects directly into God's eye H-block **319**. Passed objects are directed to (passed) output Connector **318** after combining with two other parts of the network
30 through two Combine primitives **320** and **317**. Failed objects from H-block **319** leave the BIT test common block as "Passed" objects through the same blocks **318**, **320** and **317**,

however not before they are marked as failed, from a God's eye perspective by Set Attribute primitive **321**, and have their BitDetectable and TTF Variates re-initialized with embedded common block Set Failure Variates **322**.

5 Warranty Check

The Warranty Check common block is designed to be used in conjunction with the BIT common block. It accepts weapon objects that have been determined by the BIT common block to have failed field BIT, and then, using dynamic object age, or accumulations of duty cycle accumulated in the Warranty Cycle attributes, compared
10 with global warranty thresholds, the dynamic object is marked as being either in-warranty or out-of-warranty. The power of this block stems from the capability to use multiple global thresholds and multiple Warranty Cycle attributes, and then, once configured for a specific warranty, to be inserted into the SUP topology wherever needed.

15 The Warranty Check block is defined as follows:

Inputs: (1) Dynamic Object in failed state;

(2) Multiple Global Warranty Thresholds

Function f(): comparison between Warranty Cycle attribute and
corresponding global warranty thresholds

20 DO Manipulation: Attribute setting

Outputs: (1) Dynamic object marked as either in warranty or out of
warranty

As shown in figure 15, the warranty check block **329** is implemented using
25 primitive blocks and hierarchical blocks (H-blocks). The primitives used, the topology and the instruction set are determined by the simulation software and designer choice, other combinations may be equally effective. This block **329** is configured for two warranty thresholds, although it could be reconfigured for more or one. The dynamic object enters the block through object Connector **330**, and then a Queue primitive **331**.
30 All Queue primitives **331** and **335** prevent the corruption of downstream data in cases where dynamic objects arrive simultaneously, by releasing objects one at a time through

the sections of the common block. The first H-block encountered 332 tests the dynamic object's age against global threshold provide through value input Connector 340. If deemed still in warranty, the object is passed to the next H-block 333 where, similarly its operating WarrantyCycle attribute is compared with the corresponding global threshold
5 provided through value Connector 342. If weapon is determined to be out of warranty by either H-block 332 and 333, it is passed out of the common block after combining to one path with Combine primitive 334, passing through Queue primitive 335, being marked as out of warranty with Set Attribute block 336, which is fed a constant 0 value by Constant primitive 337, combined to one output path with Combine primitive 338 and finally out
10 of the common block through object output Connector 339. If the dynamic object is determined to be still in warranty after passing through H-block 333, it is sent to Set Attribute and Constant primitive combination 344 and 345 where it is marked, combined to one output path with Combine primitive 338 and finally out of the common block through object output Connector 339.

15

Parts Spares

Wherever repairs occur, spare parts are required. Rotable spares pools (pools of spare parts that are maintained at a set level) impact repair time delays of weapons, thus affecting operational and stockpile availability. The inclusion of spares pool modeling to
20 the overall method adds great value. The Parts Spares common block integrates 1) modeling of fault isolation delay, 2) possible replenishment delays due to unavailability of spare parts and 3) removal and replacement (R/R) delay. The block uses a user-specified failure contribution distribution for parts or subsystems that comprise the whole dynamic object. The granularity of the decomposition is flexible. It contains resource
25 primitives that emulate the actual spares pools, which require a "turnaround time" for replenishment to a specified level if ever drawn upon. This common block can be used anywhere in the main model wherever repair activity occurs.

The Parts Spares block is defined as follows:

30 Inputs: (1) Dynamic object;
 (2) Initial spares pool levels;

- (3) Randomized spares pool replenishment times;
- (4) Fault isolation and R/R time distributions and parameters
- Function f(): Randomized decision based upon distribution of failure to parts of whole weapon object
- 5 DO Manipulation: Routing based upon distribution of failure to parts of dynamic object.
Randomized time delays for fault isolation, R/R operation, possible further delay due to shortage of parts spare,
- Outputs: (1) Repaired dynamic object
- 10 (2) Queue statistics of possible delayed dynamic objects, waiting for specific spare parts;
- (3) Spares pool utilization statistics

As shown in figures 16a through 16c, the Parts Spares block 350 is implemented using a number of primitive blocks. The primitives used, the topology and the instruction set are determined by the simulation software and designer choice, other combinations may be equally effective. The dynamic object enters the block through object input Connector 351 and then into Activity Delay primitive 353 to emulate the time taken to fault isolate a weapon. This delay is randomized by Random Generator primitive 352, the distribution and parameters user specified. The dynamic object enters Queue primitive 354 preparing entry for Select Output primitive 356. This primitive is attached to Random Number Generator 355, which contains the distribution, set in dialog box 386, of failure to parts of the whole dynamic object. Dynamic Objects are randomly dispersed from primitive 356 in accordance with this distribution. Dynamic objects will enter either one of the Queue primitives 357, 358, 359 in preparation for entry into either of the Unbatch primitives 360, 361 and 362. These Unbatch primitives split the dynamic object, essentially creating a duplicate object. The duplicate objects are sent using the top connectors of the Unbatch primitives 360, 361 and 362, as units of parts demand to corresponding Activity Service primitives 377, 378, and 379. Activity Service primitives act as gates for the Resource primitives 374, 375 and 376, only allowing one unit to depart from the Resource primitives for every unit of demand received. The Resource

primitives **374, 375** and **376** characterize the parts resource pools. Part dynamic objects released by either of the Activity Service primitives **377, 378,** and **379** also split into two objects by Unbatch primitives **380, 381** and **382**, one copy sent to one of the corresponding Batch primitives **366, 367** and **368**, and the other copy fed to Activity
5 Delay primitive **383, 384** and **385**. These Activity Delay primitives randomly delay part objects according to Random Number Generator primitive **373** using user-specified distribution and parameters to emulate parts spars pool replenishment turnaround time, before being sent back to Resource primitives **374, 375** and **376**.

The other copies generated from Unbatch primitives **360, 361** and **362** represent
10 the dynamic objects. Dependent on the part they require for repair (implicit by the path they are on) they are sent to either of the Buffer primitives **363, 364** and **365**. These Buffer primitives are possible bottleneck points, since the Batch primitives **366, 367** and **368** require one dynamic object for each of their input connectors in order for any object to continue. Given a spare available in corresponding Resource primitive **374, 375** and
15 **376**, corresponding Activity Service primitive **377, 378,** and **379** and Unbatch primitives **380, 381** and **382**, will send provide spare at either corresponding Batch primitive **366, 367** and **368**. This will allow the weapon object to continue past **366, 367** and **368**, otherwise, if an object is not immediately available in Resource primitives **374, 375** and **376**, the dynamic object will be delayed in either of the corresponding Buffer primitives
20 **363, 364** and **365**. In either case, delay or no delay, once batched through either **366, 367** and **368**, the weapon object is combined to all other paths with Combine primitive **369**, randomly delayed with Activity Delay primitive **371** and Random Number Generator **370**, with user specified R/R distribution an parameters, and then finally released from this common block through object output Connector **372**.

25

Sub-Models

Sub-models provide an even higher level of pre-defined and pre-verified functionality through synergistic combinations of common blocks and common attributes. Sub-models are an arrangement of common blocks that provide elements of
30 functionality to the main model. These “arrangements” of common block, although having definable patterns of topology, are flexible enough to be applied to most DES

models of missile and missile defense system O&S process. As shown in figure 17, a model 400 includes a hierarchy of functional elements from the lowest basic primitives 402 to dynamic objects 404 having common attributes 406 to common blocks 408 and finally sub-models 410 from the library and model specific sub-models 412.

5

Test Effectiveness and Multiple Hardware Failure

The test effectiveness sub-model provides the capability of characterizing dynamic objects in a failed state that are not detectable through field BIT. This is useful in analyzing weapons systems because consideration of these dynamic objects will provide a more accurate assessment of the dynamic object population at the required time for actual operation (e.g., the population pre-launch reliability).

10

The test effectiveness sub-model is defined as follows:

Common blocks: Set Failure Variates (SFA) and BIT.

15

Common Attributes: TTF Variates, BITDetectable, Duty Cycle

DO Manipulation: Resetting attributes

20

As shown in figure 18, a test effectiveness sub-model 420 includes a Set Failure Variates common block 422 and a BIT common block 424. Within the SFA block 422, the BITDetectable Attribute is set from a binomial distribution as 0 (not detectible) or 1(detectable). For example if Test Effectiveness is 95%, there is a 5% chance this attribute will be marked 0.

25

When a DO enters BIT block 424, the BitDetectable Attribute is read. If Not detectable, a “god’s eye” comparison is made of the value of the TTF Variate attribute to the Duty Cycle attribute to determine whether the DO has failed. If yes, the random BitDetectable, TTF Variate and DutyCycle attributes of the DO are reset by the Set Failure Variates block 422 and the DO leaves the BIT block as a representation of weapon hardware with one fault that is not detectable by the test equipment. Since the TTF failure variate and DutyCycle attributes on this DO have been re-initialized, the DO can fail again, and also with positive probability of going undetected. So it is possible for a DO to be subject to two or more failures as the simulation progresses. If detectable, the

30

same “god’s eye” comparison is made and the DO is either failed and reset or passed along.

Operational Availability

5 The operational availability sub-model provides a means for making single point observations of weapon downtime at various points within the model to maintain timely and accurate measurements of operational availability A_0 . This is useful in analyzing weapons systems because operational availability is a commonly desired metric for measuring the readiness of a weapon population.

10

 The operational availability sub-model is defined as follows:

 Common blocks: Observe A_0 , Operational Availability.

 Common Attributes: BirthDate, Downtime

 DO Manipulation: Reading Downtime and BirthDate attributes only.

15

 As shown in figure 19, a test effectiveness sub-model **430** includes a plurality of Observe A_0 common block **432** placed logically with the SUP model and an Operational Availability common block **434**. For example, placement at the output of a decision primitive **436** that determines whether a DO is due for scheduled maintenance or requires
20 unscheduled maintenance due to a BIT failure is logical. If no maintenance is required, an observation is made. Otherwise, the DO is directed back for maintenance thereby incrementing its downtime. For every DO that enters an Observe A_0 common block, a single point observation is made of DO downtime paired with BirthDate. This information is input to the Operational Availability Block **434** where running averages of
25 A_0 are calculated and reported.

Reliability Growth and Degradation

 The reliability growth and degradation sub-model emulates how the failure rate of weapons can often improve as a weapon program matures and degrade as individual
30 weapons age. This is useful in analyzing weapons systems because often with new weapon programs the phenomenon called reliability growth may occur. It may take

months or even years for the failure rate to stabilize. This method facilitates not just the initial effects on availability, but also the prediction of warranted failures during that period. This enhanced prediction provides the means to accurately assess warranty risk. It is important to consider degradation of failure rate when dynamic objects age into wearout to predict when levels of availability for weapons will fall to unacceptably low levels as indicating when either demilitarization or Service Life Extension action should be taken.

The reliability growth and degradation sub-model is defined as follows:

Common blocks: Set Failure Variates, Service Life Check
Common Attributes: MTBF, TTF
DO Manipulation: Read/Write only

As shown in figure 20, a reliability growth and degradation sub-model includes a Delivery Primitive block **441**, a Set Failure Variates common block **442** and a plurality of Service Life Check common block **444** placed logically within the SUP model. For example, placement at the output of a decision primitive **446** that determines whether a DO is due for scheduled maintenance or requires unscheduled maintenance due to a BIT failure is logical. To model the improvement in reliability as a weapons program matures, the MTBF initially increases as a function of lot or time. Therefore, when a DO is delivered the Delivery primitive block initializes, as a function of time or delivery lot, the DOs MTBF attribute. If all deliveries have been met, the Set Failure Variates block assigns the MTBF attribute a “current” MTBF value, normally the MTBF of the last lot delivered. When the age of the DO exceeds a Service Life threshold, the MTBF will decrease as the DO continues to age.

Predict Repair Maintenance

The predict repair maintenance sub-model predicts the quantity and expected time, warranted and non-warranted weapon objects are returned for repair. This is very useful in analyzing weapons systems because it facilitates work-load planning, spares estimation and facility sizing, providing a valuable input for determining the Life Cycle

Cost of the weapon system.

The predict repair maintenance sub-model is defined as follows:

Common blocks: Set Failure Variates, BIT and Warranty Check

5 Common Attributes: TTF, Duty Cycle, Warranty Cycle

DO Manipulation: Reading, Writing and Routing

As shown in figure 21, a predict repair maintenance sub-model **450** includes a Set Failure Variates common block **452**, a BIT common block **454** and Warranty Check
10 common block **456**. The initial delivery schedule **457** inducts the DO. The Set Failure Variates block defines TTF attributes. As the DO progresses during simulation, it passes through BIT blocks **454** periodically, according to pre-defined test policy. Failures from BIT are then marked in the Warranty Check common block as “in warranty” or “out-of-warranty” and return to the depot **458** for repair. The Set Failure Variates block resets
15 the failure variate attribute when a DO returns from maintenance.

EKV MODEL & DES

The Exoatmospheric Kill Vehicle (EKV) is a very sophisticated payload for a
20 booster rocket. The EKV’s ultimate purpose is to protect large populations of human life from nuclear ballistic missiles directed at the United States and allies by rogue nations. The EKV is launched, on short notice, from a soloed booster, deployed from the booster above the atmosphere where it will track, discriminate, and destroy incoming nuclear payloads.

25 A life-cycle O&S model for the EKV was used to: (1) decide between two competing maintenance concepts A and B for the program, concepts that differ dramatically in cost; (2) quantify repairs of EKV payloads; and (3) identify major spares requirements for EKV payloads return. The population was scheduled to ramp-up and span a maximum 12.5 year lifetime. The SUP includes Original Issue, Initial Build-up,
30 Booster Mate, Silo Emplacement, Periodic Test, Detected Failure, Preventive and Unscheduled Maintenance. Two Weapon Variants are characterized: Test-bed and P³I.

P³¹ Has Different MTBF, Different BIT policy, and no scheduled maintenance requirement whereas Test Bed variant requires periodic refurbishment. Available input metrics include failure rates & BIT effectiveness and MTBF data available for both dormant & operating environments for both Test Bed and P³¹. Desired output metrics
5 include operational availability, stockpile availability, stockpile availability at the silo, repair prediction and spares requirements at the depot. The availability metrics provide a measure of the effectiveness of maintenance concepts A and B.

Maintenance concepts A and B differ primarily in where the excess payloads are stored and installed. As shown in figure 22a, concept A for EKV model 500 partitions the
10 SUP process into three general locations: Facility 1, Facility 2 and Forward Location. EKV's are transported from Facility 1 to Facility 2 in accordance with scheduled deliveries 501 or after refurbishment/repair 502. Excess payloads are stored in a payload storage pool 503 at Facility 1. At Facility 2, the payload is built-up and mated to the
15 booster 504 and transported to a silo 505 at the forward location. If a deployed payload fails, the booster is removed from the silo, broken down at Facility 2 506 and a replacement payload is transported to Facility 2 for build-up and booster mate 504. The defective payload is returned to Facility 1 for refurbishment or repair. As shown in figure 22b, the payload storage pool 507 located at the Forward Location. Implicit in concept B
20 is equipment and infrastructure for removing and replacing payloads from the boosters while they are in the silo. Therefore the De-mate and Breakdown activity 506 in concept A is absent from concept B. This is a more expensive alternative but it more reduces replacement delay. The computer model is designed to switch between these concepts for easy comparison of the effect changing concepts on operational, stockpile and silo availability.

25 As shown in figure 23, the EKV O&S Simulation Model 500 is organized into three high level hierarchical blocks (H blocks): (1) Delivery, Repair & Deployment 520; (2) Silo Storage and Periodic Test 522; and (3) Maintenance Returns 524. The primary category of dynamic objects manipulated in the model represent EKV payloads as described above and are referred to as Payload Dynamic Objects (PDOs). H blocks 520
30 and 522 pass values of the Birth Date and Down Time attributes 526 and 528 to an Operational Availability common block 530 to calculate operational availability A_0 . This

block may be simplified because of the comparatively low population of PDOs (hundreds, not thousands). There is no need to group the observations to save computer memory, and therefore no need for weighted averages to account for different group sizes and no need for a count of observations passed to the block. A Resource Pool primitive

5 **532** represents the silo where deployed PDOs will be stored at ready. The capacity for this Resource Pool primitive is dynamically controlled with a connected Program primitive **534**. During simulation the Program primitive can schedule PDOs as input to the capacity connector of the Resource Pool primitive, thereby emulating the actual activation of new silo sites, scheduled years into the future.

10 As shown in figure 24, Delivery, Repair & Deployment H-block **520** generates Test Bed PDOs and optional P³I PDOs according to schedule from H blocks **540** and **542**, respectively. These H blocks define the TTF variant and MTBF common attributes to identify and characterize the different failure rate for the two EKV payload variants. PDO variants are combined to one path through Combine primitive **544** and then counted

15 through Count primitive **546**. This count updates the Number Delivered, N_d , input to the Stockpile Availability common block **548**. A Catch primitive **550** and a Maintenance H block **552** receive PDOs for repair and reissue them for delivery. A combine primitive **554** combines both the newly issued PDOs and the PDOs reissued from maintenance.

The PDOs enter an H-block **556** in which they enter a global RFI resource pool

20 and the Duty Cycle and other attributes are zeroed and initialized. A Get AVA Attributes block **558** reads the DownTime and BirthDate attributes. A Set Failure Attributes common block **560** assigns TTF attributes to the PDO according to their pre-defined MTBF attributes and randomly determines the PDO BitDetectable attribute. A Ship H block **563** represents a random transport delay for PDOs being transported to a BAM

25 integration facility block **564** where the PDO experiences another random delay, characterizing hardware build-up operation of the EKV payload. A BIT common block **566** passes or fails the PDO, accounting for test effectiveness of the PDO and false alarm. PDOs that fail BIT undergo reverse processing in Remove PAM & Pack H block **568**, undergo random lay in Ship H block **570**, and are globally transferred using Throw

30 primitive **572** to Catch primitive **550** for maintenance and reissue.

If the PDO passes, it moves to an AT&C facility H block **574** for more build-up

operations. Within the AT&C block **574**, the global Silo Resource pool is examined to determine if there is a demand. If there is not a demand (i.e., the Silo is full), then Testbed variant PDOs are stored in a resident Queue primitive, representing a storage facility not in the proximity of the silo, until needed. P³I variants, however, are transported using a resident Delay primitive to the Silo location and stored in another Queue resident in the AT&C block **574**, said Queue representing a storage facility in the proximity of the silo. If a PDO is required from the silo, and a P³I PDO is available, it is globally transferred to the Operations & Maintenance Returns H-block **524** in figure 23. If a P³I PDO is not available, but a testbed PDO is, the testbed PTO exits the AT&C block, is tested in BIT common block **576**, and if passed is transported and deployed through H blocks **578** and **580**, respectively, and finally exits the encasing block through output Connector **582** to the Operations & Maintenance Returns H-block **524**. If the testbed PDO fails the BIT **576**, it undergoes reverse processes **584**, transport delay block **586**, and is globally transferred using Throw primitive **588** to Catch primitive **550** for maintenance. If there is a demand at the silo and both testbed and P³I PDOs are available, they are randomly selected.

PDOs are globally sent from other parts of the model for maintenance to the Catch block primitive **550** and into the Maintenance H-block **552**. Within this H block, PDOs undergo refurbishment or repair processes, depending on their state as indicated through attribute values. There is an embedded spares common block that is configured for eight spares pools. Maintenance job queue statistics are reported from this block to the interface.

As shown in figure 25, Silo Storage and Periodic Test H-block **522** includes a Queue primitive **590** that represents the physical silo storage. PDOs enter the queue via a Combine primitive **592** that combines PDOs that enter either through a Connector **594** or globally from a Catch primitive **596**. A Scheduled MNTNC Check H block **598** periodically pulls Testbed PDOs from Queue primitive **590**, and examines Testbed PDOs individually to see if they are due for scheduled maintenance. Those that are not due are globally transferred to Catch primitive **596**, through combine **592** and back into silo Queue **590**. Within Scheduled MNTNC Check H block **598**, those Testbed PDOs that are due for maintenance relinquish both Silo and Stockpile availability resource pools

and are passed through Combine primitive **600** to Select Output primitive **602**.

If the model is set for maintenance concept B, the PDO will take the top path of the Select Output block **602** and enter another Select Output primitive **604**. If a PDO spare is available, as indicated through the connector attached to this primitive, the PDO
5 is sent to the bottom output and globally transferred with the Throw primitive **606** to a Catch primitive **622** encased in the Operations & Maintenance Returns H-block **524** detailed in Figure 26 below. If no spare is available it passes out of the encasing block through Combine primitive **608** and Connector **610**. If the model is in maintenance concept A mode, the PDO will simply exit through the bottom path of Select Output
10 block **602** and Combine primitive **608** and Connector **610**.

Similar to Scheduled MNTC Check **598**, BIT common block **612** and Determine Pre-flight Reliability H block **614** periodically pull (according to set schedules) PDOs from the silo Queue **590**. The opportunity is taken to read the PDOs Downtime and BirthDate attributes for Operational Availability observations in common block **616**.
15 PDOs that pass BIT are globally transferred to Catch block **594**, through Combine block **592** and back to silo Queue **590**. PDOs that fail BIT are passed to Combine primitive **600**, and processed as described above. The Determine Pre-flight Reliability H block **614** periodically pulls (according to set schedule) PDOs from the silo, examines, calculates and reports pre-flight reliability.

20 As shown in figure 26, in the Operations and Maintenance Returns H-block **524** PDOs will only enter through a Connector primitive **620** if the model is in maintenance concept A mode. If the model is set to maintenance concept B mode, PDOs enter globally through Catch block primitive **622** and are processed in Preferred Option Ops H block **624**. Within this block, a demand signal is sent globally to the AT&C common
25 block (Figure 24, block **574**) thereby immediately releasing a replacement PDO spare. The original PDO due for maintenance undergoes removal operations directly from the silo. In the meantime the replacement PDO will arrive to Preferred Option Ops H block **624**, after a short transport delay, and will undergo replacement delay for emplacement into silo. The PDOs are combined to one output path through a Combine primitive **626**,
30 undergo shipment preparation delays in H block **628**, transport delays in H block **630** and then are globally transferred via Throw block **632** back to Delivery Repair & Deployment

H block (Figure 24 Catch block 550).

An example of an interface 640 for use with the EKV O&S simulation is shown in figures in 27a and 27b. These input and output elements are direct pointers to fields from selected primitive blocks in the model. They provide ease of use for all users of the EKV O&S Simulations and allow immediate and timely comparison of meaningful statistics. Although the set of outputs here were deemed the most important, they are only a subset of all outputs that can be obtained from the model. For example, throughputs at all the various facilities in the modeled SUPs could have been reported as well. The input fields of the interface allow easy "what if" analysis.

As shown in figure 27a, the inputs include reliability input 642 for specifying the operating and non-operating MTBF, a false alarm rate 644, a scheduled maintenance frequency 646, a test frequency 648, a deployment capacity 650 (number of silos), parts spares pool levels 652, a delivery schedule 654 (time at which dynamic objects are inducted into the support system), a test time 656, a maintenance ground rule 658 and an interface switch 660 for choosing between maintenance concepts A and B. As shown in figure 27b, the outputs include the quantity of failures 662 detected at the silo, initial build-up and during maintenance, a number of "can not duplicates" (field false alarms) 664, an echoed input 666, a reliability of deployed weapons 668 accounting for delays and duty cycles imparted through the modeled system, a number of scheduled maintenance actions 670 from silo/pool and can not duplications, queue statistics 672 showing any significant delays of maintenance activity due to lack of spare parts or sub-assemblies, an average number of weapons that can be sustained "at ready" for deployment 674, excess weapons in storage 676 and the operational availability 678, stockpile availability 680 for the whole population and stockpile availability 682 for the silos only. By varying the inputs, a user can immediately see the effects on critical outputs.

While several illustrative embodiments of the invention have been shown and described, numerous variations and alternate embodiments will occur to those skilled in the art. Such variations and alternate embodiments are contemplated, and can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.